

Dear members of the Public Health Committee,

It was in the early 1980s that I started consistently not feeling well. I worked with several medical doctors without any positive results for my condition, in fact my health continued to get worse to the point where I could barely get through a day. Luckily, around 1999, someone suggested I see a naturopath and it was under the care of that naturopath, Debra Gibson N.D., that I was able to heal and feel like a normal person again! She turned my life around; no MD was able to help me like she did. Our insurance doesn't cover naturopathy so it was a very expensive journey. Every now and again I'll go to an MD so that the cost will be covered by insurance but the MD always seems to focus on my symptoms rather than whatever is the actual cause of my poor health and so, ultimately, I always end up back at Gibson's office where I know I will really be healed. It is very frustrating to me that whenever I need to be on an antibiotic my naturopath has had to send me to an MD to have the prescription written. It is a waste of my time, money and very difficult when I'm not feeling well. She should be able to prescribe it herself! Please support HB 5534.

HB 5534: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY. I firmly believe it is time to update the 90-year-old scope of practice for CT Naturopathic physicians. An updated scope of practice for Naturopathic Physicians will provide many more primary care services to and greatly benefit the citizens of CT. Other states that license Naturopathic physicians have allowed prescriptive drug authority for years and the overall safety record is excellent. In addition, this modernized scope of practice will significantly support and strengthen the University of Bridgeport College of Naturopathic Medicine program, the only such program east of the Mississippi. The UB Naturopathic Medicine program will prosper and grow as a result of the passage of this law. Lastly, passage will allow the UB clinics, that serve 25+ thousand patients per year, to provide many more primary care services to the poor and needy that frequent those clinics.

Thank you,

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